



# Tallil Times

## IN BRIEF

### White House Fellowship

Did you know all U.S. citizens (except federally employed civilians) are eligible to apply for the White House Fellowship program? There are no restrictions for age, sex, race, or physical requirements. This program seeks to draw exceptionally promising people from throughout the nation, providing them first-hand experience in the process of governing our nation. Annually, 11 to 19 U.S. citizens are selected to work full-time for one year as special assistants to senior executives in cabinet-level agencies or in the executive office of the President. Military personnel are encouraged to apply as this program does enhance executive development. Please contact your local MPF customer service element for further information.

### Tallil Times Back Issues

With the migration of the local shared drives, the Tallil Times back issue archive has moved. Every issue of the Tallil Times ever created is available to 407th Air Expeditionary Group personnel on the new shared drive at S:\407 AEG\PA\Tallil Times Archive. Issues are sorted in folders by year and month originally published. Call the Public Affairs office at 459-0002 if you have any questions.

### Tallil Coins For Sale

The 407th Expeditionary Services Squadron has a limited number of Tallil Air Base coins for sale. Each piece features full-color artwork representing the coalition forces deployed here to Tallil, and has beveled edges and enamel coating. The coins will be available at the Hot Spot for only \$5 each while supplies last.

## AEF 3/4 troops arrive at Tallil AB

By Master Sgt. Don Perrien

407th AEG Public Affairs

The first Airmen assigned to Air Expeditionary Force pairing 3/4 have arrived at Tallil Air Base, the start of more than 1,300 people who will be rotating to and from Iraq as part of a scheduled transition of forces.

According to 1st Lt. Nekisha Mehta, PERSCO team chief, the AEF cycle is one way the Air Force takes care of its people.

"The AEF system lets the Air Force best manage its deployed forces to meet mission requirements," she said. "In turn, it allows for more predictability for Airmen and their families — making deployments a bit easier."

For the members of the PERSCO team, the arriving Airmen mark a change in mission and in schedule. Beginning Sunday, the PERSCO office will resume 24-hour operations..

"This is the best part of the rotation for me," said Master Sgt. Patrice Fontenot, PERSCO superintendent. "I really look forward to inprocessing all the new arrivals."

"Being able to manage the influx of personnel is a challenge," Sergeant Fontenot said. "I love briefing them and giving them the information they need, helping their rotation get started on the right foot."

"Because of the flight scheduling process, we can have people arrive any time, day or night," she said. "So we have to be ready all the time."

While the first Airmen have already arrived at Tallil, the rotation cycle still has a long way to go.

"The AEF rotation won't happen overnight, it will take a few months to complete," Lieutenant Mehta said. "We'll be receiving people for AEF 3/4 through March."

## 'Tis The Season



Photo by Master Sgt. Don Perrien

Members of the Tallil Air Base Chapel Choir perform during the 407th Air Expeditionary Group's Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony Saturday night at the Big Top auditorium here. More than 150 Airmen, Soldiers and Marines attended the event which featured caroling and holiday treats including hot chocolate and cookies provided by the Holiday Enhancement Committee.

Commander's Corner

By Col. Wade Johnson

407th AEG commander

Tallil is becoming a busier place. Like any Airman who does their job well and receives recognition and increased job opportunities, the men and women of the 407th Air Expeditionary Group have demonstrated to our Service's senior leaders that we are capable of increased responsibility.

Over the next few weeks and months, we will continue to prepare Tallil Air Base for the future. Your hard work today will set the stage for even more important operations for future rotations of Airmen and coalition forces.

I encourage each of you to focus on the task at hand while keeping an eye on the future. Think about the part your squadron or duty section plays in maintaining and expanding our base, and if you see an opportunity to do something better or smarter — don't hesitate to tell your chain of command.

Our mission today, in building a free and stable Iraq is one of the most important missions we could ever undertake.



Preparing our base to meet future mission needs will help ensure the safety of both our people today and the citizens of Iraq in the future. Your work today will become a legacy for years to come.

This week's safety message is a simple one; be aware of pedestrians while driving. Tallil has very few marked crosswalks compared to our installations back home.

In high traffic areas where people and vehicles meet, like the DFAC and Post Office, this presents a hazard where people can get injured or even killed.

If you are operating a vehicle, especially during hours of decreased visibility, slow down and keep your eyes open for pedestrian traffic. Watch for people crossing at intersections and in front of workcenters and recreational areas.

If you are walking around Tallil, make it easier on the drivers by remaining visible. Wear your reflective belts at night, and cross at marked intersections whenever possible. I don't want to see an injury or death caused by a needless confrontation between a vehicle and a pedestrian.

Stay safe, prepared and vigilant.

# Tallil Talks ...

What's your favorite movie you've seen since deploying here to Tallil?



Airman 1st Class  
Maribel Solis,  
407th ESVS:

"Anchorman. It was really funny, and I just like Will Farrell"



Senior Airman  
Jonathan Snyder,  
407th EMDG:

"Kill Bill Vol. 1. I liked it because of all the cool cartoonish violence"



Staff Sgt.  
Darlene Mann,  
407th ECS:

"How to lose a guy in 10 days. I liked it because Matthew McConaughey is a fellow Texan ... and he's hot."



Captain  
Tammy France,  
407th AEG Group Staff:

"Office Space. It reminds me of all the time I've spent trapped in a cubicle back at the Peterson MPF."



The Tallil Times

## EDITORIAL STAFF

Col. Wade Johnson  
Commander, 407th AEG

Master Sgt. Don Perrien  
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Deadline for publication is 2 p.m. Thursday before the week of publication. For more information, call 459-0002, or e-mail the staff.



# Lessons from an eighth grade civics class

By Capt. Eric Kom

407th ECES Engineering Flight

**I**t was Tuesday, a few days after the Berlin Wall came down. I was a naïve, young teenager at the time.

After lunch, my classmates and I gathered our afternoon supplies and shuffled into eighth grade civics class. Like other eighth graders at the time, I had no real understanding of what the demolition of the Berlin Wall meant.

The teacher started class by reading a news article about this inspiring event. I may have forgotten the article, but I will never forget the words he spoke after reading it.

*"I want you all to realize that the world will change*

*drastically during your lifetime."*

The end of the Cold War not only changed the way the United States military does business, it shifted the global economy, reprioritized US foreign policy, and opened the world to new ideas and possibilities.

During that year, my class would learn to appreciate several democratic principles of the United States — the Mayflower Compact, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, the Treaty of Versailles, and the Geneva Convention, to name a few.

The establishment of these principles which framed our great nation into what it is today came with sacrifices.

One person who made such

a sacrifice was Joseph Martin.

He joined the Revolutionary Army when he was 16 years old. He lasted the winter at Valley Forge with men who had no boots or coats.

He endured the battles, while eating tree bark for nourishment. He watched the surrender of New York and experienced the absolute triumph as the British general handed over his sword to a bunch of half-starved, half-clothed farmers.

That's how our country was born — normal everyday people coming together to achieve the extraordinary.

Can you imagine being alive during those first years of the United States?

I would think it's quite simi-

lar to where Iraq is now. In the last two years, we freed a nation!

Not just the United States, but a long list of nations came together to achieve the extraordinary.

The statues have fallen, and the world is changing again. My civics teacher was a genius!

Like I did that day, I hope every Airmen realizes the significance of where they are.

Realize that being in the military serving in Iraq today — being like Joseph Martin — makes you part of something which is long lasting and affects the future of the world.

Take note of where you are. Be proud of what you do, the nation you represent and the nation you helped create.

## It's a little too early to be asking 'Are we there yet?'

By Chief Master David G. Hill

407th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron

### *Are we there yet?*

Do you remember asking that question while you were in the back seat of the car while on vacation? Wondering how much farther? How much longer? When will this end?

That is what I'm starting to hear as I pass by the smoke shack, stand in the chow line, go to the BX, or just casual conversation with my co-workers here at Tallil.

I wonder myself sometimes. I know that we are over halfway through the rotation, but I really don't count the days.

To me it's a distraction, but nevertheless, someone reminds me everyday how much longer they have.

That's the danger. We start to think of how many days left, instead of what is at hand. No matter what you are doing at Tallil Air Base your mind needs to be clear and on the job.

We can't help but think of home and loved ones at this time of year. Especially now, when we are so far from home.

The last thing they or you would want is to be injured by someone, cause an injury to someone, or have a mishap because we were not in the right frame of mind while performing our duties.

Just one little momentary lapse of concentration could cause someone or several someone's to have a very bad day.

The holidays mean different things to different people. For some, it is the best time of the year, no matter where they are. They are very cheery and always have a smile. *(They must be Santa's elves.)*

For the majority of us we make do with what we've got, and where we are at. For others, it is difficult to be here and separated from friends and family too, and maybe they cannot cope quite as well. They may seem a little stressed, withdrawn, stand-offish, or even downright rude. Be tolerant and patient if they snip at you for no known reason. Reach out and help a friend or co-worker.

This is the part where I'm supposed to say it is the responsibility of the senior leadership to watch out for and mentor all of our

troops. In addition we should be especially watchful of our Airmen's needs and responsive to their well-being.

Yes, it is the senior leadership's responsibility to do just that. But we need everyone's help.

It is the responsibility of all of us, every last one of us, to look out for each other. We all should take the extra time to lend a hand, reach out and just check up on each other.

I hope that as I walk un-noticed past you, at the smoke shack, or in the chow line, or at the BX that I hear pleasant conversation, laughter, and light hearted talk of home and loved ones.

I hope that all of you are having the best holiday season that can be. I hope to see smiles on your faces as you talk to one another.

But most of all I hope that I see all of you reach the end of your rotation and go home safely, because you paid attention to your job and did it well.

And I hope we all have a Merry Christmas.

***Wearing your reflective safety belt can be the difference between leaving Tallil on a C-130 rotator or on the front bumper of a HUMVEE!***





# Reservist returns POW/MIA bracelet worn in remembrance

By Senior Airman Nicole Talbert

445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — A reservist here who pledged to keep the memory of a fallen Airman alive for almost 20 years has returned the Vietnam warrior's POW/MIA bracelet to his family after he was finally laid to rest.

Master Sgt. Sheila Couzins, an intelligence analyst in the 445th Operations Support Squadron, purchased a red aluminum bracelet in 1985 outside the base exchange at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, while attending technical school.

Sergeant Couzins chose the bracelet engraved with Chief Master Sgt. Harold Mullins' name because he was an enlisted Airman and he was from Denver, Colo. Similarly, Sergeant Couzins' father was enlisted in the Air Force and had retired from Lowry Air Force Base, Colo.

Chief Mullins, a flight engineer assigned to the 4th Air Commando Squadron at Ubon Air Base, Thailand, was aboard an AC-47 Spooky gunship lost on an armed reconnaissance mission over Laos in June 1966.

"Wearing the bracelet started so many conversations. It represented that eventually everyone would be brought home again," Sergeant Couzins said. "The bracelet is a great ice-breaker because I didn't just wear it in uniform, I wore it always."

Though the original bracelet broke nearly 10 years after Sgt. Couzins started wearing it, she continued to carry it in her flight gear. In 1994, her husband presented her with a



Courtesy Photo

Master Sgt. Sheila Couzins wore this POW/MIA bracelet in remembrance of Chief Master Sgt. Harold Mullins who was missing since June 1966. She returned the bracelet to Chief Mullins' family after his remains were buried in Arlington National Cemetery in November.

silver replica, which she pledged to wear until Chief Mullins' remains had been identified and repatriated.

The wreckage of Chief Mullins' aircraft was discovered in 1994. Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory workers aided in identifying the remains recovered from the crash site. Eventually, all six members of the ill-fated AC-47 were identified. They were buried at Arlington Cemetery November 5, 2004 with full military honors.

Sergeant Couzins sent the bracelet to Chief Mullins' family upon learning that he had been found. Her eyes filled with tears as

she said, "I'm very glad I'm able to sent it back to his family and that his family will have closure."

"(It is ironic) that I obtained the bracelet just after joining the military and now I'm retiring it as I am set to retire January 25," Sergeant Couzins said.

She asks people to continue to carry out the tradition and wear POW/MIA remembrance bracelets.

"Public awareness is what keeps the drive going," the sergeant said. "It's a great reminder of what we do and the consequences that our actions can have."

**IN BRIEF**

**Reflexive Solo**  
The 445th Operations Support Squadron (OSS) reservist assigned to the 445th Air Expeditionary Group (AEG) is currently deployed to the 445th AEG. The 445th AEG is currently deployed to the 445th AEG. The 445th AEG is currently deployed to the 445th AEG.

**New Off Laundry Hours**  
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**2004 Inventory Closure**  
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**Hot Spot Has New Candy**  
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**Off Duty Education**  
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**Tent City inspections begin**  
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**Cost of a new computer = \$1,500**  
**Monthly Internet access = \$20**  
**Weekly cost of the Tallil Times = Priceless**

**The Tallil Times is the official publication of Tallil Air Base and the 407th Air Expeditionary Wing.**

**It's available for FREE download each Friday at**  
<http://www.afnews.af.mil/internal/papers/Tallil.pdf>

**Tell your friends and family about the**  
**Tallil Times!**



# Rumsfeld to remain as Defense Secretary

By Kathleen T. Rhem

American Forces Press Service

KUWAIT CITY, Kuwait, Dec. 6, 2004 — Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said today that President Bush asked him to stay on in his current position and he “enthusiastically” accepted.

“The president asked me if I would be willing to stay on, and I told him I would be delighted to do that,” Rumsfeld told reporters traveling with him en route to a three-country overseas visit.

He gave no timetable to suggest how long he would continue to serve as secretary, but said the Defense Department

has a lot of work that needs to be completed. He cited such programs and initiatives as the National Security Personnel System, rebalancing Guard and Reserve forces with the active force, adjusting the global force posture, and transforming the armed forces into a lighter, more adaptable force.

These things won’t happen overnight, he said. “The task of moving an institution as large as the U.S. Department of Defense is a sizable task,” Rumsfeld said. “It’s the kind of thing that doesn’t happen instantaneously. Great bureaucracies don’t spin on a dime.”

In particular, Rumsfeld said, adjusting the posture of U.S.

forces around the globe is “something that needed to be done for decades.”

This force-posture update will involve bringing some overseas-based units home to the United States and “shifting our weight in various parts of the globe,” he noted. The goal is to focus “more on precision, equipment, speed, agility as opposed to mass and sheer numbers.”

The secretary said he feels it’s important to contribute what he can to solving these issues DoD faces. “I feel fortunate at this point in my life to feel I can contribute to working on these important problems,” he said.

Rumsfeld also said he agreed to stay on as defense secretary

because he enjoys working with Bush. “He is a good leader; he is an excellent executive,” he said of the commander in chief.

Also, Rumsfeld said, it is “an enormous plus” to be able to work closely with American servicemembers, whom he called “absolutely amazing.”

He said he finds them amazing “whether they are out in the field” or “when you go visit them in the hospitals.” He added that he particularly admires “the confidence that they have in themselves and in their professionalism, the confidence that they have in the work they’re doing and its import historically.”

“It’s a thrill for me to be able to work with them,” he said.

## AROUND YOUR AIR FORCE

### Operation Dear Abby e-mail

In 1967, a servicemember wrote advice columnist “Dear Abby” requesting “just a letter from home” for deployed troops serving during the Vietnam War.

The famous columnist, known by her pseudonym, Abigail Van Buren, responded, and the Operation Dear Abby mail program was born. Through the ensuing years, hundreds of thousands of U.S. servicemembers received letters of support from Dear Abby readers during the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year holiday seasons.

Shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States, Defense Department officials shut down the program because of concerns about potential anthrax attacks through regular postal mail.

In November 2001, Dear Abby and Navy officials teamed up to resurrect the letter-writing operation using e-mail as the conduit, said Bill Hendrix, director of the Navy’s Lifelines quality-of-life program. The Navy-run program supports all the services. It can be found at [anyservicemember.navy.mil](mailto:anyservicemember.navy.mil).

Mr. Hendrix said the Internet-enabled Operation Dear Abby system experienced 22 million hits during its first month of operation.

And with U.S. troops deployed worldwide supporting the war against terrorism, the operation’s messages of support are as important as ever, Hendrix said.

According to the operation’s Web site, the general public can send messages to servicemembers. Servicemembers with Internet access can read those messages.

Hendrix said the e-mail servers “start to buzz” each time Operation Dear Abby is discussed in the Dear Abby column. “It goes right up to the 3- to 4-million-hit range every time she does it,” he said.

Today, Jeanne Phillips, the daughter of Dear Abby founder Pauline Phillips, writes the advice column, which reaches more than 100 million readers.

### AFNews subscriptions hit 100K

For the first time since Air Force Link, the Air Force’s official Web site, was introduced nearly 10 years ago, the number of subscribers to its electronic news and information products has exceeded 100,000.

The growth is attributed to the Web site’s continuing popularity, combined with an ever-increasing growth of diverse forms available to users for getting news and information about the Air Force, said

Kim McDonald, director of Air Force News Service.

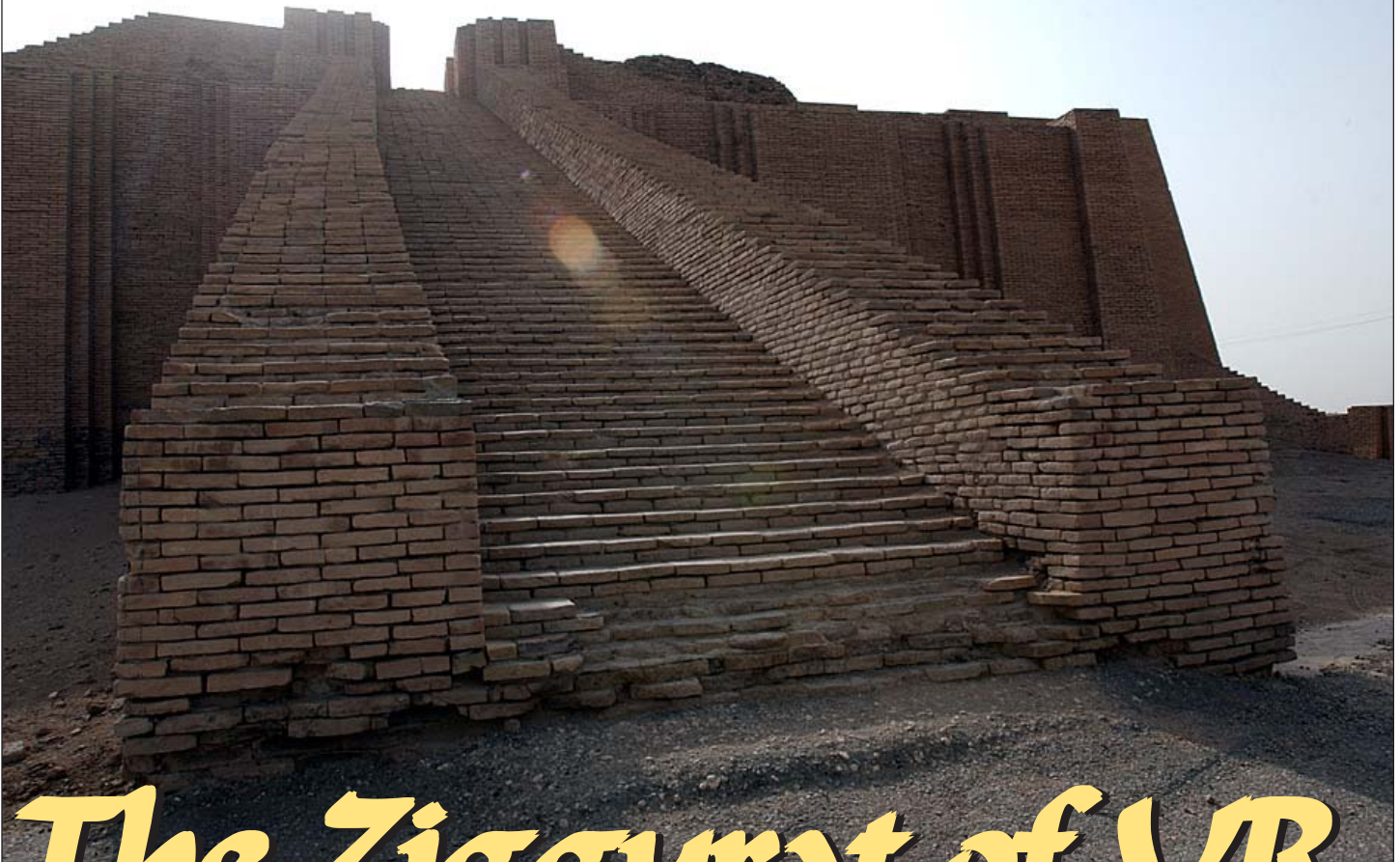
“Clearly, the steady growth of Web users coming to Air Force Link, and the addition of new e-mail products has contributed to this growth in the number of subscribers,” Mr. McDonald said. “Our customers now use electronic subscriptions to make the information they need and want available at their convenience, without having to go to the Web and do an extensive search to find what they’re looking for.”

With the addition of AF Today, a daily e-mail summary of news stories, video and audio news reports, the Air Force News Service products subscriber list grows by several hundred every week.

Products available through the Air Force’s official Web site, at [www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil), include Air Force Print News, Air Force Television News, Air Force Policy Letter Digest, AF Today, Airman magazine and Commander’s Call Topics. Several other e-mail subscriptions are available, including major command news products. All products are available by clicking on the “subscribe” tab on the Air Force Link home page, or by going to [www.af.mil/subscribe](http://www.af.mil/subscribe).



*One of the oldest man-made structures on earth sits inside the perimeter of Tallil Air Base. For centuries, it has stood as a religious symbol and place of wonder. It is called ...*



# The Ziggurat of UR

By Master Sgt. Don Perrien

407th AEG Public Affairs

More than 4,000 years ago, worshipers of the moon god Nanna living near the ancient city of Ur constructed the monument we call the Ziggurat. Rising more than 40 feet above the ground, it is the best preserved structure of its type in the world.

The Ziggurat was built in three stages taking hundreds of years to complete. The monument's construction was begun by a ruler named Ur-Nammu and completed by Shol-Gi of the Third Dynasty.

The structure was unearthed in the mid 1800s by the British consul J. E. Taylor, who partly uncovered the Ziggurat. Unlike the pyramids of Egypt, the Ziggurat is a solid structure. There are no inner passages or chambers for burying former rulers. However, there is a nearby royal cemetery in the

adjacent city of Ur which was later excavated in 1922 by Sir Leonard Wooley.

The Ziggurat has been restored several times during its life, with the last known construction work taking place during the 1960's. Most of the exposed outer surface of the structure visitors see today is from the work done just 40 years ago.

The first two layers of the Ziggurat are relatively well preserved, however the upper level is no longer standing. Originally there may have been a small temple to the moon god on the upper level, however archeologists speculate the mound of rubble at the top of the structure may have resulted from the practice of destroying the temple annually and creating a new one each year.

The original purpose of the Ziggurat is lost in mystery. Recovered cuneiform tables describe rituals of prayer and sacrifice, but little is known about the religion as a whole.

The life of the Ziggurat is closely tied with the city of Ur itself. The city is considered a cradle of civilization, playing a key role in defining urban culture and serving as an example for future city designs. Several thousand years ago, the path of the Euphrates River flowed very close to the city's walls. Because of its location, Ur became a hub for the development of commerce and the seat of political influence for the entire area.

The city's early history was marked by three separate dynasties in a single millenia, with the first occurring before 3,000 B.C. and the last ending around 2,000 B.C.

Excavations in the area dating from the second dynasty have shown the citizens of Ur were instrumental in discovering new methods to work metal, especially the min-

See ZIGGURAT, page 7





Photo by Tech. Sgt. Maria J. Bare

## Ziggurat

*Continued from Page 6*

ing and smelting of gold. Later excavations dating from the third dynasty show the city developed into a cultural capital featuring works of sculpture and literature as the local rulers expanded their empire several thousand miles long across an area from the Near East to parts of Asia Minor.

The more commonly known name of the city for many people is the city's biblical name, Ur of the Chaldees. This name refers to the Chaldeans, who settled in the area about 900 B.C. Passages in the Bible's book of Genesis describe Ur as the starting point of the migration westward to Palestine for the family of Abraham around 1,900 B.C.

During the Chaldean dynasty, King Nebuchadnezzar II ruled over another period of construc-

tion at the city of Ur. The last Babylonian king of the period, Nabonidus, who reigned from 556-539 B.C. appointed his eldest daughter high priestess at Ur. During this period, he and his daughter repaired and rebuilt many of the temples and entirely remodeled the Ziggurat.

However less than a century later, Babylonia came under the control of Persia, and Ur began its decline. By the 4th century B.C., the city stood nearly barren and empty. Historians speculate the change was most likely due to a combination of continuing warfare in the area combined with a shift in the course of the Euphrates River decreasing the city's value as a trade route.

While the original inhabitants of Ur have faded into history, the Ziggurat of Ur stands a remarkable window into humanity's past culture.



Photo from British Museum Archives

(Facing Page) The stairway of the Ziggurat reaches over 40 feet to the top of the structure which is more than 4,000 years old.

(Upper Left) Archways in the city of Ur demonstrate the innovative architectural techniques developed by the city's inhabitants thousands of years ago.

(Above) The unearthed Ziggurat was researched by several teams of archeologists during the 1850's and 1920s.

(Left) The city of Ur today, as it sits alongside Tallil Air Base in Southern Iraq.

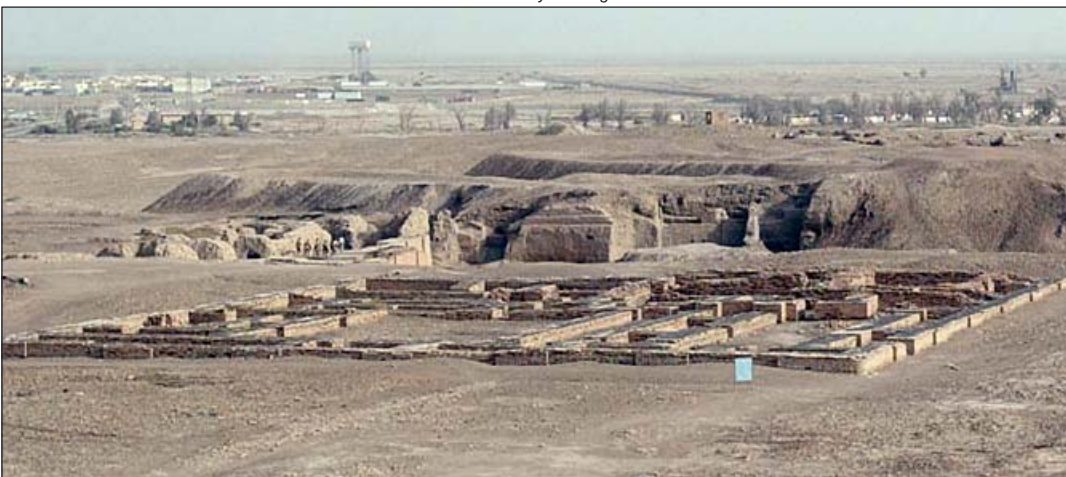


Photo by Tech. Sgt. Maria J. Bare



# Don't let your luggage turn into a safety nightmare

By Tech. Sgt. Rusty Schmidt

407th AEG Ground Safety

Sometimes I imagine, it's a bright Monday morning and I'm in the gym doing my usual routine before 6 a.m. in the morning, when my radio comes alive asking for Safety Two.

I respond and report immediately to the corner of Airport Road and 6th Street. I quickly throw on my uniform and proceed to the intersection with a quick stop to get my camera and note pad from the office.

As I pull up to the scene I see fire trucks, ambulances, and Security Forces vehicles. I park my vehicle and walk toward the center of activity.

In this particular daydream, I hadn't been told what the mishap was so I naturally thought maybe a vehicle accident.

When I break through the ring of personnel, I see a young man lying on the road with a serious head injury and a pool of blood

around his body. I then see another young man sitting in the driver's seat of a pick-up full of luggage.

I pull one of the Security Forces Airmen aside and asked what happened. He tells me it's just another vehicle accident and I start my work of investigating yet another needless death.

The story is factious to a point. Did it happen here at Tallil? No. Has it happened before in the AOR? Yes. Have I investigated a mishap like this? Unfortunately, yes I have. Let's review what went wrong in my daydream.

First, the unfortunate young man was riding on top of luggage that was in the back of a pick-up. Second, there was no reason to be ridding on top of a pile of luggage. There was room in the cab of the pick-up, and even if there wasn't, it's safer to just make two trips. Finally, it was his last day in the AOR and he had short-itis and would do anything to get out of the AOR.

Don't let this be you. You've heard me

as the ground safety guy preaching about the dangers of riding in the back of a pick-up full of luggage. You've heard the group commander preach to you, and you've heard your squadron commander preach to you.

Heed the warnings of these individuals. I don't want to have to report to your home station that you will not be returning because of an avoidable accident.

As we get ready closer to returning home, think in advance about your plan to get luggage to the passenger terminal and how you and any other personnel will be transported.

Plan for a possible short notice situation, just in case that your plane is inbound sooner than you think, and you have to go now.

Ensure you can reach someone to get you and your luggage in a safe manner to the passenger terminal.

Follow the rules and correct those that don't and we will all go home.

## New ELRS Commander



Photo by Airman 1st Class Jeff Andrejick

Maj. William Webb accepts the flag of the 407th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron from Col. Wade Johnson, 407th Air Expeditionary Group commander during the unit's change of command ceremony held Wednesday. The 407th ELRS is responsible for many important missions here at Tallil Air Base including Logistics Plans, Aerial Port operations, POL, and vehicle management.



# Stay to the right for sirens and lights

Being aware of emergency vehicles while driving can help save lives

By Senior Airman  
Philip Smith

407th ECES Fire Department

The emergency vehicles of Tallil's Fire Department are often quite busy. For example, the fire department responds to every "hot refuel" on the FARP.

In that case, we have just as little notification, if not less, than the POL people who refuel the aircraft. It is our duty to make it to the FARP in a timely manner and it's a long way from our station to the refueling point.

When you are back home and you see an emergency vehicle responding to an incident, hopefully your first reaction is to safely move to the right so the vehicle can pass.

Sometimes during our responses, there are vehicles that do not move safely out of the way of responding emergency vehicles.

This disregard for emergency vehicles hinders us from a proper response time. Roughly 50 percent of drivers do not attempt to move their vehicles out of the way.

As a driver of one of the primary crash trucks that responds to the hot refuels on the FARP, all too often I find myself fighting traffic on the way to a call.

Let's face it — there are not too many distractions on the roads of Tallil Air Base, as compared to life back in the states; so the chance to be distracted and not see the large crash truck rolling down the street is reduced.

Now that Airport Road has more traffic due to the latest traffic pattern changes, it is becoming more of a safety concern to all personnel to maintain an uncluttered roadway.

So please, remember to keep an eye out for those large crash trucks on their way to any emergency. "Stay to the right for sirens and Lights!"



Photo by Senior Airman Melissa Gridley

## First Four Volunteer of the Month

Tallil's First Four Council announced the winner of its Volunteer of the Month Award for November at their Dec.1 meeting. Senior Airman Elmer Smiga from the 407th Expeditionary Communications Squadron was honored for volunteering over 15 hours toward improving morale and quality of life at Tallil Air Base last month.

## 407th AEG Warrior of the Week SrA Marla Bell



**Unit:** 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron

**Home unit:** 509th SFS, Whiteman AFB, Mo.

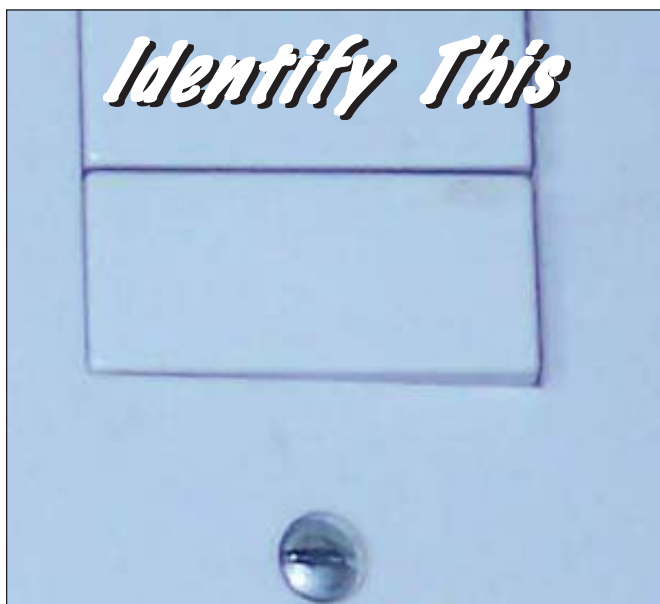
**Why other warriors say she's a warrior:**

Outstanding personnelist—worked a myriad of personnel issues for 200+ ESFS personnel—ensured timely personnel actions, broke home-station log-jams, served her customers well; Routinely takes personnel services to the customer, including those posted “outside the wire.” Volunteered as Tallil’s primary POC for donations to Operation Reach Out—instrumental in sorting, boxing, and delivery of hundreds of pounds worth of food, clothing, toys for nomadic Iraqis.

**Most memorable Air Force experience:** Standing on top of the Diego Garcia Headquarters Building, watching planes launch during the opening hours of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

**Hobbies:** Spending time with my family, fishing, hunting, and sports.

## Identify This



**KNOW WHAT THIS IS?** Each week, the “Tallil Times” staff takes a photo from around Tallil AB. If you can identify the object or item, shoot us an e-mail at: [tallil.times@t1ab.aorcentaf.af.mil](mailto:tallil.times@t1ab.aorcentaf.af.mil) with “Identify This” in the subject block. The winner receives a prize and gets their name printed in the Tallil Times. Congratulations to Tech. Sgt. Gary Wandmacher for correctly identifying the photo in last week’s newspaper of the dart board.

## Wild Iraqi Safari Indian Mongoose



Tallil has its own small Indian mongoose residing near the “golden arches.” With any luck you may see her darting across the street, or under the bushes.

**Behavior:** The Indian mongoose is active during the day. It feeds primarily on insects, but is an opportunist and will feed on most anything it can catch — insects, spiders, snails, slugs, frogs, lizards, snakes, birds, eggs of birds and reptiles, all kinds of rodents, crabs, fish and fruits. Of course the small Indian mongoose is famous for its killing technique, particularly when it comes to venomous snakes. The mongoose dispatches its victims with a bite to the back of the head. To stay cool, the mongoose moves into the shade and will lie on its stomach on the cool soil.

**Distribution:** Originally, the Indian mongoose was found in Iraq through Southwest Asia into the Malay Peninsula. Now, because of introduction by humans, the Indian mongoose is also present in the West Indies, South America, Japan, Europe and several Pacific islands.

**Did you know?** In the late 1800’s Indian mongooses were introduced into the West Indies and the Hawaiian Islands to control rats in the sugar cane plantations. This resulted in an ecological disaster. The mongooses drove several native species to local extinction, while only partially reducing the rat population.

*Column courtesy of John Ploch, Vector Control, KBR contractor and Lt. Col John Putnam, 407th Leishmaniasis Surveillance and Investigation Team.*



# OUT AND ABOUT



## Worship services

Worship is at the 407th Air Expeditionary Group Oasis of Peace Chapel, unless otherwise noted. The chapel is open 24 hours a day for prayer and reflection. For details on worship opportunities, call 459-0006.

### Sunday

**8 a.m.** Roman Catholic Mass  
**9:30 a.m.** Traditional Protestant service  
**10 a.m.** LDS service at the Army's Religious Activity Center  
**12:30 p.m.** Air Force/Army Gospel service in the Big Top  
**6 p.m.** Contemporary choir rehearsal  
**7 p.m.** Contemporary worship service

### Monday

**6:30 p.m.** Gospel service prayer time in the chapel resource trailer  
**6 p.m.** Roman Catholic Mass  
**7 p.m.** Experiencing God Bible Study in the Chapel Annex  
**7:30 p.m.** Gospel choir rehearsal in the Big Top

### Tuesday

**7 p.m.** Right of Christian Initiation of Adults in the Conference Room  
**7:15 p.m.** Christian Leadership Bible study  
**8 p.m.** Christian Discipleship Study. Call Marine Staff Sgt. Ross Hrynewych at 459-0761 for details.

### Wednesday

**5 p.m.** Catholic Choir rehearsal  
**6 p.m.** Roman Catholic Mass  
**7:30 p.m.** Protestant Choir rehearsal  
**8 p.m.** Purpose Driven Life Study in the chapel annex

### Thursday

**6:30 p.m.** Catholic choir rehearsal  
**7 p.m.** Right of Christian Initiation of Adults in the Conference Room  
**7 p.m.** LDS study in the Army Religious Activity Center  
**7:45 p.m.** Gospel service Bible study

### Friday

**11:45 a.m.** Islamic prayer at the RAC, call 833-1154 for info  
**6 p.m.** Roman Catholic Mass  
**7:30 p.m.** Gospel choir rehearsal

### Saturday

**6 p.m.** Vigil Mass  
**7 p.m.** Contemporary choir rehearsal



## ESVS Presents Just for fun



**Tonight, Combat Bingo,**  
7:30 p.m. in the Big Top

**Saturday, Chess** at 8 p.m.;

**Sunday, Dominos**  
at 2 p.m.

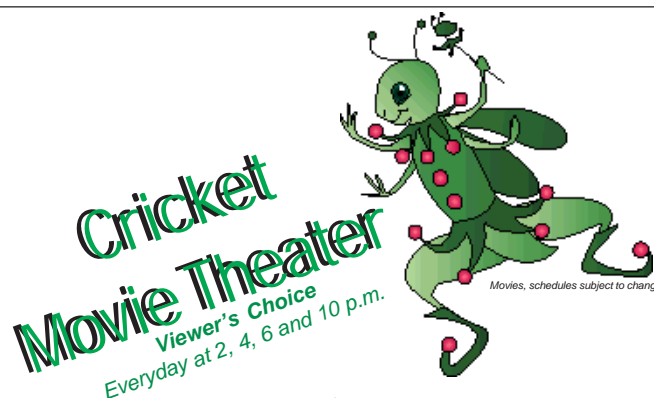
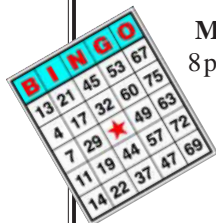
**Monday, Foosball** at  
8 p.m.

**Tuesday, Darts**  
at 8 p.m.

**Wednesday, Rummy, 8**  
p.m.; Hearts at midnight

**Thursday,**  
9-ball at 8 p.m.

**December 10,**  
Combat Bingo,  
7:30 p.m. in the  
Big Top



## Today

Noon, King Arthur  
8 p.m., Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow  
Midnight, Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow

## Saturday

Noon, Sideways  
8 p.m., Thunderbirds  
Midnight, Thunderbirds

## Sunday

Noon, The Bourne Supremacy  
8 p.m., Sideways  
Midnight, Sideways

## Monday

Noon, Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban  
8 p.m., The Bourne Supremacy  
Midnight, The Bourne Supremacy

## Tuesday

Noon, Thunderbirds  
8 p.m., Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban  
Midnight, Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban

## Wednesday

Noon, Jingle All The Way  
8 p.m., Planes, Trains, and Automobiles  
Midnight, Planes, Trains, and Automobiles

## Thursday

Noon, A Charlie Brown Christmas  
8 p.m., The Grinch  
Midnight, The Grinch

## Dec. 17th

Noon, Miracle on 34th Street  
8 p.m., Christmas Vacation  
Midnight, Christmas Vacation

# Muscle Beach gets a makeover

Visitors to Tallil's Muscle Beach Fitness center will have no trouble picking it out from among the other structures in tent city thanks to a makeover from a group of local Airmen.

Airman 1st Class Jason Marquez of the 407th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron was commissioned by the Muscle Beach staff to create the distinctive mural that now graces the facility's exterior.

Along with a group of other supporting painters and helpers, the mural was completed this week and dedicated in a small ceremony Thursday.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Maria J. Bare



## Muscle Beach Events

**Today**, Karate, Kenpo/  
Aikido, 10:15 p.m.

**Saturday**, 5-on-5 Basketball  
Tournament, 6 p.m.

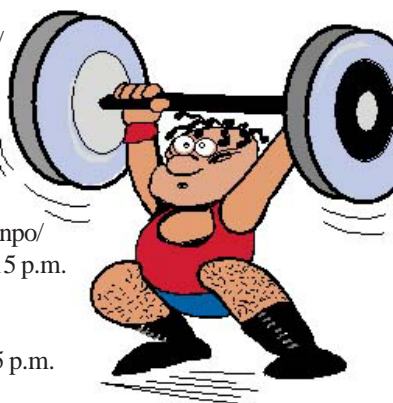
**Sunday**, Open Gym

**Monday**, Karate, Kenpo/  
Aikido, 10:15 p.m.

**Tuesday**, Intramural  
Dodgeball, 6 p.m.

**Wednesday**, Karate, Kenpo/  
Aikido, 10.15 p.m.

**Thursday**, 4-on-4  
Volleyball at 5 p.m.



## Intramural Dodgeball Standings

(As of December 9th)

ECES 4	4	0
EFD	3	0
ECES 1	3	1
AEG	2	1
ESFS	2	1
EMEDS 1	2	2
ELRS	2	2
ECS 1	2	2
ECES 3	2	2
ESVS	1	3
ECS 3	1	3

